

1 CONTROLLED USE OF DEVICES

2 ABSTRACT

3 According to the invention a method and system for selectively
4 controlling the operation of a device intended by a person is
5 provided which uses some kind of personal authentication token,
6 e.g., a JAVACard connected to said device in order to control a
7 particular type of use or the duration of use of the device, and
8 - if desired - in order to interrupt the operation of the device
9 or to delimit the operation when some kind of reason can be
10 evaluated from some operation type specific or some user-related
11 data stored in said card which might justify said decision.

12 According to a preferred aspect of the present invention said
13 token or, generally spoken, an authentication means is
14 advantageously a Smartcard and in particular a Java Card, or any
15 other multi function Smartcard with the capability of downloading
16 and executing software programs on the card, on which personal
17 authentication data as well as some kind of account data are
18 stored. Said account can be a time account in which the duration
19 of the personal use and/or operation of the device is maintained
20 and regularly compared to some predetermined time limits admitted
21 to the user. A large variety of further criteria storable on the
22 card emerge dependent of the type of the device. (Fig. 1)